

HEART OF AMERICA

MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS REVIEW

A MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER SERVING THE MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS UNITS OF IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI AND NEBRASKA

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Introducing our First Issue.....	1
First-Ever Region VII MRC Meeting.....	1
All Aboard the TRAIN.....	2
Idea Results in Cheaper Vaccination Kits.....	2
SEMA/MEPA Conference to Address Topics of Interest to MRCs.....	3
New National Response Plan Unveiled.....	3
Training Courses Focus on Volunteer Issues.....	4
Scholarships for National MRC Conference.....	4
Calendar of Events.....	4



Introducing the Heart of America Medical Reserve Corps Review Newsletter

Greetings, Region VII Medical Reserve Corps coordinators and volunteers! I am pleased to present the first issue of the *Heart of America Medical Reserve Corps Review*, a newsletter created specifically to serve the information needs of the Medical Reserve Corps units in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska. This newsletter will highlight the activities and recognize the efforts of your Medical Reserve Corps units. In addition, it will feature information on best practices, upcoming events and resources useful to your Medical Reserve Corps units, such as information on potential funding opportunities, training and policy issues. I welcome your comments and suggestions for improvements. Also, please send me information on your unit's recent activities and events so that this information can be featured in future issues. Thanks for making your communities and your nation healthier, safer and more prepared!

First-Ever Region VII Medical Reserve Corps Meeting in February

Please mark your calendars for the first Region VII Medical Reserve Corps meeting to be held February 11, 2005 in Kansas City, MO. The meeting will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Mid-America Regional Council conference center, 600 Broadway, Suite 170, Kansas City, MO 64105. The meeting will include a working lunch.

The purpose of the meeting is for the region's Medical Reserve Corps leaders to get to know one another and share information on common issues and concerns, such as:

- Program planning, implementation and management
- Volunteer recruitment and selection
- Volunteer training, education and exercises
- Volunteer liability
- Licensure, certification and credentialing

Office of Public Health and Science, Department of Health and Human Services, Region VII
601 E. 12th Street, Room S1801, Kansas City, MO 64106 (816) 426-2829 (816) 426-2178 Fax

- Funding and sustainability
- Local integration and partnerships
- Medical Reserve Corps involvement in emergency preparedness and response
- Medical Reserve Corps involvement in public health initiatives
- Volunteer relations
- Other issues or concerns

For more information on this meeting, please contact Gary Brown, Regional Medical Reserve Corps Coordinator, at (816) 426-2829 or gbrown2@osophs.dhhs.gov.

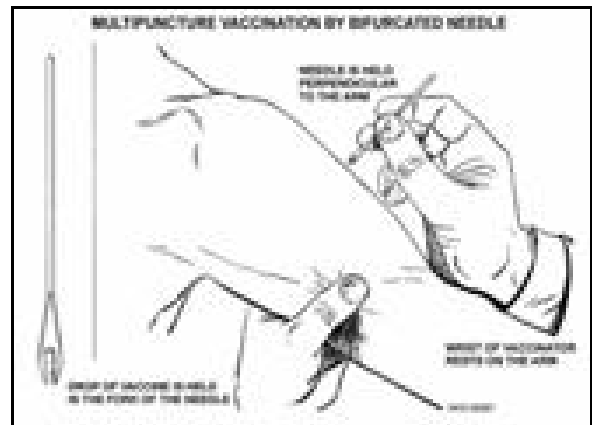
All Aboard the TRAIN!

The Public Health Foundation, a national, non-profit organization dedicated to achieving healthy communities through research, training and technical assistance, operates an online training system known as the *TrainingFinder Real-Time Affiliate Integrated Network*, or TRAIN. The Public Health Foundation states that TRAIN is “the nation’s most comprehensive learning resource for professionals who protect the public’s health.” TRAIN is a free service and allows users to locate a wide range of training courses appropriate for a variety of health and medical disciplines, including:

- Public health officials
- Epidemiologists
- Health educators
- Environmental health professionals
- Healthcare and public health administrators and managers
- Social workers
- Physicians, nurses and other clinicians
- Emergency responders
- Military personnel
- Mental health providers
- Government and community leaders

TRAIN also contains a training record for students who use the system. In addition, CEUs and other credits and credentials may be awarded for training courses completed through TRAIN. Both the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Nebraska Center for Bioterrorism Education have affiliate websites of the TRAIN system. To find out more about TRAIN or to use the system, visit either the Kansas affiliate website at www.ks.train.org or the Nebraska affiliate website at www.ne.train.org.

Idea Results in Cheaper Vaccination Kits



The Sedgwick County Medical Reserve Corps has come up with a cost-effective method that public health agencies and hospitals can use to acquire the large supplies of vaccination site dressing kits that would be needed for mass smallpox vaccinations. According to Gloria Vermie, Sedgwick County Medical Reserve Corps Coordinator, the Sedgwick County Medical Reserve Corps learned that it can be cost-effective to purchase individual items used in vaccination kits and have Medical Reserve Corps volunteers assemble custom kits. The Sedgwick County Medical Reserve Corps decided they could get together and have a “work party” to make and pack these customized vaccination kits for the Sedgwick County Health Department. This idea was

shared with the South Central Metro Region (SCMR) Public Health Board, an eight county public health initiative created to address domestic terrorism and emergency preparedness issues. SCMR was pleased to receive information on this economical method of acquiring vaccination kits for smallpox vaccination clinics. As a result of the information provided by the Sedgwick County Medical Reserve Corps, SCMR decided its board members and any volunteers from their counties could duplicate this same kind of initiative. Consequently, Sedgwick County will have additional funding for supplies and the Sedgwick County Medical Reserve Corps volunteers will have another work party!

SEMA/MEPA Conference to Address Topics of Interest to Medical Reserve Corps

On March 27-30, 2005, the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) and the Missouri Emergency Preparedness Association (MEPA) will hold their joint annual Conference at Tan-Tar-A Resort, Osage Beach, at the Lake of the Ozarks in Missouri. This year's conference features a number of presentations that may be of interest to the region's Medical Reserve Corps coordinators and volunteers. These presentations include:

- Citizen Corps 201: You've Got a Group Together, Now What?
- National Incident Management System (NIMS)
- Worried Well and Worried Sick: Effectively Managing Triage and Quarantine
- Spiritual Health and Well-Being
- Hospital Decontamination

The conference registration fee is \$135 per person. There is a special conference hotel room rate of \$77 per night. For more

information on the SEMA/MEPA conference or to register, visit the conference website at <http://www.sema.state.mo.us/2005SpringConf/nvite.pdf>.

New National Response Plan Unveiled

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has released the new National Response Plan, which replaces the Federal Response Plan. According to the DHS website, "the National Response Plan establishes a comprehensive all-hazards approach to enhance the ability of the United States to manage domestic incidents. The plan incorporates best practices and procedures from incident management disciplines—homeland security, emergency management, law enforcement, firefighting, public works, public health, responder and recovery worker health and safety, emergency medical services, and the private sector—and integrates them into a unified structure. It forms the basis of how the federal government coordinates with state, local, and tribal governments and the private sector during incidents." The new National Response Plan also incorporates the concepts and principles established by the National Incident Management System (NIMS). NIMS provides a comprehensive national framework for emergency response and enables responders at all levels of government and the private sector to work together more efficiently and effectively in order to manage domestic incidents, regardless of their cause, size or complexity. Visit the DHS website for more information on the National Response Plan: http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interapp/editorial/editorial_0566.xml. FEMA offers an online course to familiarize students with the new National Response Plan. This course, IS-800: *An Introduction to the National Response Plan*, is available online at FEMA's website at <http://www.training.fema.gov/emiweb/IS/is800.asp>.

Training Courses Focus on Volunteer Issues

FEMA's EMI has developed a Citizen Corps course, *Organizing and Sustaining Citizen Corps* (E-125), which may be appropriate for Medical Reserve Corps coordinators and volunteers. According to the course description, "this course is designed to provide a pathway to success for those with responsibility for the development, organization, or implementation of a Citizen Corps Council. This highly interactive class provides participants with the opportunity to apply creative and relevant course information to their communities while at the training, so the participant leaves with a plan for organizing and sustaining their Citizen Corps council in their own community. This training is also applicable for any of the individual Citizen Corps organizations, CERT, Medical Reserve Corps, Volunteers in Police Services, or Neighborhood Watch programs." Currently, this course is only offered in residence at EMI. In 2005, this course will be offered on June 13-16, 2005 and August 1-4, 2005. More information on this course is available at <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/>.

EMI also offers a non-resident course, *Developing and Managing Volunteers* (IS-244), that is part of its Professional Development Series and is available online. According to the course description, "this course is for emergency managers and related professionals working with all types of volunteers and coordinating with voluntary agencies. The course provides procedures and tools for building and working with voluntary organizations. Course topics include benefits and challenges of using volunteers; building a volunteer program; writing job descriptions; developing volunteers through recruitment, placement, training, supervision and evaluation; coordinating with voluntary

agencies and community-based organizations; and special issues including spontaneous volunteers, liability and stress." For more information or to enroll, visit FEMA's website at <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is244.asp>.

Scholarships Available for Medical Reserve Corps National Leadership Conference

A limited number of \$500 scholarships are available to representatives of Medical Reserve Corps units that were **NOT** funded through the Medical Reserve Corps demonstration project. Only one scholarship per unit will be awarded. Due to limited funding, however, it is possible some units will not receive scholarships. Scholarships may only be used for costs associated with the National Leadership Conference on April 20-22, 2005. To be considered for a scholarship, a proposal must be submitted to the national program office by February 14, 2005. The format for proposals is available from the Medical Reserve Corps website at <http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/index.cfm?MRCaction=Home.ServiceStipends>.

Proposals should be e-mailed to malbright@osophs.dhhs.gov. For more information on these scholarships, call (301) 443-4951.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Region VII MRC Meeting Kansas City, MO	February 11, 2005
MRC National Conference scholarship applications due	February 14, 2005
Kansas MRC Meeting Hutchinson, KS	March 8, 2005
SEMA/MEPA Conference Osage Beach, MO	March 27-30, 2005
MRC National Conference San Francisco, CA	April 20-22, 2005